

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th October 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	Bhādra, 1286 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī" ... ..	Chittagong	550	Ashwin, 1286 B.S.
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	23rd September 1879.
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	23rd ditto.
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	23rd ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	28th ditto.
11	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	26th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	27th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	24th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	
15	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	900	29th ditto.
16	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	
17	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	25th ditto.
18	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	28th ditto.
19	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	29th ditto.
20	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	26th ditto.
21	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	27th ditto.
22	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	260	22nd ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	27th ditto.
24	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	29th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
25	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	26th to 30th September 1879.
27	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	29th September to 4th October 1879.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	26th, 27th, & 30th Sept. & 1st Oct. 1879.
29	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	29th September to 3rd October 1879.
30	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	22nd & 30th Sept. & 1st Oct. 1879.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
32	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	27th September 1879.
<b>ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.</b>				
<i>Daily.</i>				
33	"Byāpārī; " or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	29th September to 4th October 1879.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	24th September 1879.
35	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	25th ditto.
36	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	29th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
37	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	19th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 23rd, 1879.

Persons of a tyrannical and despotic disposition, observes the *Bhārat Mihir* of the 23rd September, can never brook outspokenness; and it is not easy to convince such of the simple fact that those who happen to be subordinate to them possess equally with themselves a freedom of opinion. Perhaps no other Government, except that of Lord Lytton, has ever treated public opinion with so much contempt and indifference. From a knowledge of his disposition and antecedents, we had hoped that under his administration public opinion would so grow in power as gradually to become the right hand of Government. But, in practice, the results have been quite the reverse of our expectations; and we are consequently becoming daily more despondent. The whole country, in one voice, protested against the Vernacular Press Act when that measure was being passed into law; but Government paid no heed to this. We might still have been comforted in a large measure had the Act but remained a dead letter. But with the aid of this sharpened weapon, Government cut off the old and experienced *Som Prakash* for a trifling fault. Lord Lytton next hurled his thunderbolt on the head of the British Indian Association for having made a few reasonable remarks in an outspoken manner. Mr. Yule, the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, came in next for a share of his favours. Not only is Lord Lytton subject to this disease, but certain high officers subordinate to him have also manifested symptoms of it. Somebody had passed certain strictures upon the weaving of the Punjab carpets, and the critic was, in consequence, severely denounced in the official Gazette. Now, the reason which has led us to rake up these old stories is as follows:—Government has ruled that no independent newspaper correspondents will be allowed to accompany the British force which is now advancing upon Cabul. It clearly appears, from a consideration of these arbitrary and unprecedented actions on the part of Government, that there must be some irregularity in the Military Department, or that, during the time of action, the superior military officials are in the habit of committing such acts that publicity might lead to grave consequences. Whether in America or Europe, newspaper correspondents have always been allowed to accompany an army of invasion. The rule is, however, different in India. The reasons assigned for this step by the Press Commissioner on behalf of Government, in reply to a question of the *Bombay Gazette*, certainly provoke laughter. Considering that in this movement of troops thousands must be supplied with rations, we do not see what additional trouble will be caused to the authorities by having to provide for the requirements of a few press correspondents; the more so, as the latter, as a matter of fact, never depend entirely on Government for the supply of their wants. They are, moreover, fully aware of the perilous character of their enterprise. It does not therefore seem that Government will have to exercise any additional degree of circumspection on their account; and hence also it is that we do not feel confident regarding the declaration of the rulers that the prohibition to press correspondents to accompany the invading army has been made solely from a desire for their safety. Why the Government of India should thus be daily developing an increasing fondness for secrecy is a matter which passes our comprehension.

BHARAT MIHIR,

2. The same paper writes as follows in another editorial:—The malignant influence of Saturn will not cease to harass the vast domains of the Queen of England, so long as Lord Beaconsfield remains at the head of the English administration. The perverted statesmanship of this person will not cease to operate until England has been completely humiliated. What a part

The policy of Lord Beaconsfield.



was played by Lord Beaconsfield in the late Russo-Turkish war! England commenced open hostilities with Russia, although this was quite uncalled for; to impress the Czar with a sense of the endless power of England, Lord Beaconsfield sent 7,000 Indian troops to Europe, and there made a puppet-show of them. England had long been an ally of Turkey; but the war saw an end of this alliance. England took Cyprus, and thus made herself bitterly unpopular with Turkey. In the wild Zululand of Africa, an able disciple of Lord Beaconsfield, Sir Bartle Frere, has caused another conflagration. The fault of the Zulu King is that he is not civilized, that he has not altered the system of marriage in vogue among his people, and that in obedience to the commands of Sir Bartle he has not, after giving up all his arms and ammunition, gone into voluntary exile with all his troops. One British General has returned to his country without having ended the war; while another, having unsuccessfully tried every means to capture the Zulu King, has at last set a price upon his head. In England, there is depression of trade, and distress prevailing among the agriculturists. India, however, has afforded Lord Beaconsfield ampler scope for the display of his genius. The day on which the Sovereign of England, not satisfied with the possession of the time-honored and spotless title of "Queen" assumed that of "Empress," seemed to us to mark the inauguration of a new policy regarding this country. Henceforth justice and good-will gave place to might and diplomacy. The great Rájshúya sacrifice of the British Government was next celebrated on the classic grounds of Hastinápore. By holding an Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, Lord Beaconsfield seemed to say to Europe, and particularly to Russia—"Look at the wealth of the Indian Empire, which is, after all, but one of our dependencies! How many hundreds of Rajahs, Maharajahs, Nawabs, and Amirs have prostrated themselves at our feet! A look from our eyes will be enough to lead these to sacrifice their lives for us." The character of Lord Beaconsfield's policy received a daily increasing development at the hands of Lord Lytton. The people of India were disarmed, while the Vernacular Press was gagged. The policy, however, reached its strange climax in the war against Afghanistan. The Tory Government had, for a long time past, been in search of a frontier for India, which should make it impenetrable and impassable to an enemy. It was at length said that Lord Lytton had succeeded, after much application and expenditure, in discovering this most subtle geometrical line. From Generals to peons, all received rewards; panegyrics were lavished upon Lord Lytton; but all vanished in a moment like a dissolving view. Owing to the murder of the British Envoy, the Afghan war has commenced anew. It has been since ascertained that the inhabitants of Cabul were all implicated in the massacre. Yakub Khan seems to have been innocent, although his innocence has not yet been fully established. The probabilities are daily becoming greater of the whole of Afghanistan taking up arms against the British. This time, therefore, the war is not against the Amir, but the unruly and treacherous Afghans. On the other hand, twenty thousand Russian troops are approaching Merv, while the intrigues of Russia has destroyed the ascendancy of England in Persia. The latter has an eye upon Herat; and matters would take a somewhat serious turn if the mutinous regiments sought her aid. Then, again, who can say that, in the event of some complication arising, Russia will not follow the example set by England during the late Russo-Turkish war, and assist Afghanistan as secretly as the former did Turkey?

3. The same paper writes:—Owing to the misconduct of certain ill-behaved Englishmen, both the English name and the reputation of Government suffer in the estimation of the people of India. It seems to be the desire of these men that whatever good things there are in India should fall to their portion,

Kashmere and certain newspapers.

BEHARAT MIMIK,  
September 23rd, 1879.



and that natives should lick the dust of their feet. Dominated by this desire, a company of narrow-minded Englishmen had, for some time past, propagated many charges against the administration of Kashmere. The stories circulated are now discovered to have been utterly groundless. The fact is that Europeans are not allowed to travel in Kashmere without, in the first place, taking the permission of the Maharajah. This restriction is not naturally liked by them; and hence the charges of misgovernment which are so frequently brought against him.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
September 23rd, 1879.

4. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 23rd September, remarks that Government has not yet been able to decide what policy should henceforth be adopted

towards Afghanistan. The *Times* does not see that there has been any change of the situation, and it is therefore of opinion that the treaty of Gundamuk should not be abrogated. If that were the case, the Amir should be reinstated on the throne of Cabul, and there would probably be no war in Afghanistan. The difficulty, however, is to find able successors to Sir L. Cavagnari and Mr. Jenkins. The Editor suggests that Sir Ashley Eden, Mr. Mackenzie, and Dr. Payne should be sent to Cabul to take up the duties of the late Envoy and his suite.

SAMACHAR SAR,  
September 27th, 1879.

5. The *Samáchar Sár*, of the 27th September, is of opinion that Yakub Khan has all along been a traitor to the British Government. It is exceedingly probable, considering the treacherous character of the Afghans, that he was at the bottom of the conspiracy which has resulted in the massacre of the British Envoy. Taking into consideration the persistent refusal of his father to admit a British Resident in Cabul, his own partiality for Russia, and the apparent willingness with which he signed the treaty of Gundamuk against the wishes of a considerable section of his Sardars, and his seeming friendship with the members of the British Embassy up to the day of the massacre, the conclusion becomes unavoidable that he has throughout played the part of a treacherous ally.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
September 27th, 1879.

6. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 27th September, writes as follows:—  
The Cabul massacre and Yakub Khan. What does the letter of the Amir to the British Government shew? He wants to be popular with both enemies and friends; but is unable to govern the people. It is perfectly clear that he enjoys neither the confidence nor the devotion of the Afghans. His position is indeed a critical one. It appears that the Russians have had a hand in the late massacre. The Amir's attitude is not hopeful; and the English, we are afraid, will meet with considerable harassment. The ultimate consequences will be extremely injurious.

SAHACHAR,  
September 29th, 1879.

7. Relying on the strength of the conviction, says the *Sahachar*, of the 29th September, that the British do not punish one before his trial, the Amir has come voluntarily into the British camp. We therefore hope that Government will reinstate him on the throne. Whatever faults he might have committed, since he has sought our protection all of these should be forgiven. It appears that his power over his people has not yet become firm, and that he has been driven from Afghanistan. We fear that considerable trouble is in store for Government in the forthcoming campaign against the turbulent people of that country.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PRABHATI,  
September 22nd, 1879.

8. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Prabháti*, of the 22nd September, headed—  
"Rupture of the spleen," and the value of the life of a native. "The value of a native's life is 200 rupees." Reader, you often hear that such and such a



person, a European, had administered such a kick on the chest of a poor and weak native that the latter died from its effects ; that another, also a European, had inflicted on another unfortunate native a blow with his fist which broke his teeth, and ultimately delivered him from the troubles of this world, and that the *post-mortem* examination, conducted by clever and conscientious medical officers, shewed that death had not been the result of either the kick or the blow, but of a "rupture of the spleen." The impartial Judges, the very incarnations of justice, acting with a single eye to duty, came to the conclusion that the Europeans who had committed the respective assaults were not guilty ; and that, in consideration of the damage done to the shoes in the act of kicking, and the pain which had resulted to the hand in inflicting the blow which had smashed the teeth, the plaintiffs were entitled to recover a certain sum from the deceased persons. Reader, so competent are these judicial officers that it would seem as though they were the fittest persons to be deputed for the purpose of realizing this money. Be that, however, as it may, who takes due notice of the hundreds of instances of such assaults and the subsequent trials of offenders which have occurred and are still occurring in India? No matter whether the blow dealt by a European to a native be on the head, back, or any other part of the body, the death is sure to be attributed to a rupture of the spleen. For some time, we were afraid that the spleen had assumed the guise of death for the extermination of the people of India ; and as the Supreme Spirit, who is invisible, is sometimes incarnated on earth for the punishment of the wicked and the fostering of the virtuous, so, too, has this organ of the human body taken upon itself the task of chastising men for their sins. Happily, however, the power of this new scourge diminished for some time in India ; and we thought that, having satisfied itself with the blood of the natives, it had assumed the guise of shells, cannon, and powder, and repaired to Afghanistan to slake its thirst with the warm blood of her inhabitants. It is to be regretted, therefore, that it has come back from Cabul ; and, for some days past, has again begun to harass the people of this country. The other day a spleen case occurred in Aligurh. The details are as follow :—One Mr. Fox, Assistant Station Master of Tundla, gave such a blow to a native punkah-bearer that the latter died in consequence. What an ocean of mercy this European is? Unable to witness the sufferings of this poor drudge who had to work day and night, he delivered him from his troubles once for all. The wonder is that the European was put upon his trial ! That a man is ever put upon his trial before a Magistrate for having done a good deed we did not know before. If Government has any such law, then that law must be regarded as extremely inequitable ; for, from fear of being subjected to a trial, men will not any longer be disposed to perform such good deeds. However, the law could not be broken with impunity, and so Mr. Fox had to take his trial before Mr. Lawrence, the Magistrate of Agra. The conclusion arrived at was that, as the deceased punkah-bearer was a man of common standing, the value of his life in money could not be more than 200 rupees, and so Mr. Fox was fined to this extent. We have neither seen a copy of the decision, nor are aware of the result of the *post-mortem* examination ; still we can surmise that the cause of the unfortunate man's death was the spleen. Magistrates before Mr. Lawrence had, in trying spleen cases, assessed the value of native lives at Rs. 20 to 25, or Rs. 30 at utmost ; but we are exceedingly glad to notice that the price of the article has risen so high. These Englishmen would seem to think that natives are their sport, objects of their luxury and targets for shooting exercises. Just as many wealthy people amuse themselves with keeping up *menageries* and large establishment of carriages and horses, India, too, is looked upon in the same light by many Englishmen. These latter would seem to think that India is their sole



pleasure ground ; that to them it is a vast *menagerie*. They can, of course, elude the clutches of human justice, but not certainly the judgment of Him who seeth everything. They must suffer for their acts. Those Europeans who needlessly take away the lives of innocent natives and reduce their families to beggary must pay the penalty of their acts when the Supreme Judge passes his sentence, unperverted by any prejudice or partiality.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 23rd, 1879.

9. Adverting to the same subject, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 23rd September, makes the following remarks:—  
"Rapture of the spleen," and the value of the life of a native. These scandalous instances of the miscarriage of justice are calculated to destroy all confidence and respect in the minds of the people for the British nation. To prevent such failures of justice and remove this reproach which has been brought on the British name, Lord Lytton penned his famous Fuller Minute. The good intentions, however, which led to that measure have remained recorded on paper merely, no Magistrate having ever taken the least warning from it.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper thus writes regarding the License Tax and the raising of the lowest rateable income to Rs. 250 a year:—That in the midst of the vast confusion attending the progress of Cabul affairs, Lord Lytton has remembered the hardship of the poor and starving people of this province, and is at length rectifying, albeit in some measure, a blunder committed by himself, is a matter for which we tender him our thanks. Perhaps with the sole exception which will be found in the reign of Aurungzebe, at no other time, and in no other country, was there ever put on such a fearful and inequitable tax, one which so ground down the poor, as the License Tax. Even the *zejia* imposed by Aurungzebe was not in its operation so oppressive or productive of so much hardship to the poor. Those indeed were fearful times ; but even that tax was at least free from the reproach that it did not seek out the poor and deprive them of their morsel of food. The License Tax, on the contrary, does not touch the pockets of the wealthy, nor is it the object of its devisers to do so. It would seem as though people were selected for being assessed with this tax who did not know how to give expression to their sorrows and hardships, whose woes were not likely to be mentioned in Parliament that any rebuke might be addressed to the Government of this country, or the tale of whose miseries was not likely to be told by any English or Anglo-Indian newspaper in preference to news regarding wars, rebellions, and peace. What Ministry would have the courage to put on such a tax in England? What Parliament would sanction the imposition of such an inequitable and oppressive tax? India, however, has no Providence to look after her ; she has not the power to give vent to her sorrows. Hence it is that all impossibilities are becoming possible in this country.

It is probable that the visit of Sir Steuart Bayley to Eastern Bengal, which enabled him to see the condition of the people with his own eyes, has resulted in the exemption from liability to the License Tax of all annual incomes below Rs. 250. This measure will doubtless lead to the exemption of many ; but it will hardly benefit even a fourth part of the number whom it ought to have benefited. It would have been something if the limit had been fixed even at Rs. 500. The License Tax was originally imposed for the purpose of famine relief ; but in practice it has led to a rise in the prices of articles. There is not a single article of daily consumption, such as fish, herbs, or any other edible vegetable, which is not selling dear ; and the License Tax has been the principal, if not the sole, cause of this state of things.



The true character of this tax is not made intelligible by a mere reference to the rates laid down in the Act. That it has become so unpopular is chiefly due to the faulty method of its collection. There was not so much agitation in the country regarding the Public Works Cess; the reason being that in the collection of the cess the people were not subjected to any additional harassment. In the first place, as a direct impost the License Tax is not suited to this country; the task of assessment and collection having been entrusted to certain inexperienced persons has again aggravated its oppressive character. The work in connection with it should not therefore be entrusted as at present to a number of young Sub-Deputy Collectors, who both lack moral scruples and sympathy for the people. Their sole desire seems to have been to obtain the approbation of Government—a desire to which may be attributed almost all the oppressions committed in connection with this tax.

11. We extract the following observations from another article in the same paper:—It is probable that in this

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 23rd, 1879.

Reduction of public expenditure.

time of retrenchments, the Cooper's Hill

College may be abolished. It, however, requires a little courage on the part of Lord Lytton to make this an accomplished fact. Reductions of expenditure are being made in almost all departments of the Administration; and Lord Lytton seems really compelled by necessity to be in earnest about the matter. We commend this earnestness, on his part; and if, after paying due regard to the various requirements of the public service, he succeeds in making real retrenchments, India will remain grateful to him for ever. We do not here refer to the intricate question of military expenditure, but would merely observe that, if His Excellency's efforts in the direction of economy were successful, even only in the matter of civil charges, history would long sing his praises. Let him, like the Chief Justice of Bombay, shew an example of economy by reducing his own salary; otherwise no real reforms will be possible. In no other country, even in those which are credited with wealth, are superior public officers so highly paid as in India, which is but a poor country. These high salaries should not therefore be continued here.

It is not an easy thing for a ruler to be determined to reduce the expenditure of the Indian Administration. The task would demand perfect disinterestedness and courage, unfettered by any considerations; and no Viceroy would succeed in the matter unless he began with the salary of his own office. It would be next to nothing if the services of only a few supernumerary officers, or of a hundred or two of peons were dispensed with. Nor is it easy to abolish the College at Cooper's Hill. The attempt would give a violent shock to vested English interests, of which the Marquis of Salisbury may be regarded as the very incarnation. In seeking to duly worship this Moloch of English interests, he has repeatedly sacrificed India. One object of the Cooper's Hill College established by him was to secure the appointment of Englishmen to the engineering service in India to the exclusion of the natives of the country; while the creation of an office for the benefit of the famous Colonel Chesney was doubtless another. The College supports this person and annually provides a number of his pupils with employment. Lord Lytton has now the task before him of destroying these powerful interests. The Marquis of Salisbury inaugurated two noble (?) measures for the benefit of English youths and to the detriment of the interests of the natives of India. The one is the establishment of the College referred to above; and the other, the lowering of the limit of age required of the Civil Service candidates. Will Lord Lytton have the courage to abolish one of these measures?



BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 23rd, 1879.

12. The same paper wonders at the indifference which is being manifested by the legal practitioners when a Bill affecting their own vital interests is passing thorough the Legislature. It is, however, time that they should raise their voice against certain provisions of the measure, which if passed into law in their present form will lead to very undesirable results. The Editor takes up two points for consideration: First, the provisions regarding the payment of commission to any mukhtar, &c. On this point, though not objecting to the degree or nature of the punishment provided for, he has nevertheless strong objections to the system of summary trial laid down in the Bill. This is simply disgraceful; and considering that the trial is intended for the pleaders, a class of men who represent the highest learning and enlightenment of the country, the matter is greatly to be deplored. The system of summary trial frequently leads to an abuse of authority. Should the Bill become law in its present form, the bar in the mofussil will have but little independence left. The other provision objected to is that which refers to the power conferred upon the district courts to punish the legal practitioners who may be subject to their jurisdiction. This will place the latter at the mercy of the district authorities, and seriously injure their usefulness and independence. The provision that the agreement between the client and the counsel should be submitted before the court, which will have the power of reducing the fees which may have been claimed by the latter, will also operate in the same direction. In conclusion, the writer would ask that whatever procedure might be ultimately agreed upon regarding the trial of the legal practitioners, the working of it should all be entrusted to the High Courts of the country. Any transfer of this power to the district tribunals will only end by reducing the members of the mofussil bar to the position of lifeless *amlah*.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
September 27th, 1879.

13. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 27th September, remarks that the new Civil Service is as unreal a thing as any that was ever intended for the purpose of coaxing children. Troubled by the importunities of the educated natives of India, and much as a father might act when importuned by his children, Government has devised a scheme to silence their clamours. The object of the scheme is not to reward merit, but to confer favours on the influential and the wealthy. The Government of India has shown much skill in this matter. The path of advancement is now closed for ever to the natives of India. It were better not to grant admission into this Civil Service; appointments to which will only be made in favour of at best incompetent men whom it may be the policy of Government to bring under its influence.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

14. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the hasty manner in which suits are disposed of in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. It appears from the published report that no less than 75 suits are thus, on the average, daily decided. This of course renders it almost impossible to detect the instances of false evidence and forged accounts which are often produced in the Court. It behoves Government to attend to this matter.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
September 23rd, 1879.

15. Adverting to the exemption of all annual incomes below Rs. 250 from liability to the License Tax, the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 23rd September, remarks that the chief credit for the concession now made by Government belongs to the People's Association of Dacca. Certain philanthropic gentlemen of that city, moved by the distress of the people in Eastern Bengal, had repeatedly made known their grievances to

The License Tax: the exemption of the lowest incomes.



the local authorities, and at last to Sir Ashley Eden, but none of them paid any heed to their representations. Sir Ashley himself lacks generosity, while his subordinates also have lost this feeling. It was therefore owing to the exertions of the gentlemen above referred to, notably of the Kundu Baboos of Bhágyakul, and of Baboo Brajendra Kumar Ráya of Beleti, that the sufferers have obtained relief. The Editor then proceeds to remark that, if instead of Sir Steuart Bayley Sir Ashley Eden had gone on a tour through Eastern Bengal, the distress, even had its proportions been a thousand times greater than it was, would never have possibly moved him. He is wanting in generosity and sympathy for the people. He prides himself upon his freedom from any such failing as mercy or generosity, and to play this rôle, as well as to subserve his own private ends, he would never have listened to their cries for relief. Sir Ashley is, besides, a child of pleasure, and would not have allowed the people to trouble him with importunities.

16. The same paper refers to a case which has recently occurred in Tundla, in which a native punkah-bearer died from the effects of an assault committed on him

The Tundla case.

by a European. Medical examination shewed that death had been the result of a rupture of the spleen. On this subject the Editor remarks:—Natives have up to this time cast so much ridicule on the British authorities over this matter of rupture of the spleen, while doctors have been obliged to promulgate so many amusing theories on the subject, and Judges put to so much embarrassment all for this cause, that unless they could be believed to be devoid of all moral scruples and regard for decency, Europeans would never again resort to this plea after having committed a murder. But life is of all things the most valuable possession; and what plea so good for clearing oneself from the charge of homicide as this one? But although many a European homicide escapes the penalties of law by pleading rupture of the spleen as the cause of their victims' deaths, it is producing one great evil, namely, that whenever this plea is advanced, right or wrong, the impression is created that a European has murdered a native, and that the Judges have acquitted the offender. This lowers the latter in the estimation of the people.

17. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 29th September, notices with exceeding regret signs of disagreement between the British Indian Association, an old and useful political organization of the country, noted

Disagreement between the British Indian and the Indian Associations on the Civil Service question.

for the wisdom and experience of its members, and its younger rival, the Indian Association, which may be regarded as progressive in its aims and endeavours. The subject of dispute has been a trifling matter which, properly considered, would afford no room for disagreement; and yet for such a small thing the organs in the press of the respective Associations have for the last three weeks waged a paper war and helped by their writings to promote disunion where union is all-important. In the interests of this country which are at stake, the whole matter is greatly to be deplored; and it behoves the leaders of both Associations to come to an amicable settlement as speedily as possible. There is but little real difference between their opinions on the subject. Both the *Hindu Patriot* and the *Bengali* would seem to be agreed as to the inexpediency of introducing the system of nomination, while both advocate the system of competitive examinations for determining the fitness of the candidates. Hence, as far as the subject of appointment to the service is concerned, there is no difference between the two bodies; nor does there appear to be any on the further matter of holding examinations both in England and India. The point of contention is whether the candidates appointed would have to reside two years in England before they could be held eligible for service. The *Hindu Patriot* strongly opposes this, while it is as strongly advocated by

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the organs of the Indian Association. The former, however, is so far right that a residence in England is opposed to the wishes of the nation, and that those who hold that no education could be complete without this qualification, should be at liberty to proceed thither for this purpose. For our own part, we would suggest that the examination should be held both in England and India, but that the question of subsequent residence in England should be made an open one, and left optional with the candidates. Those that might elect to remain in this country, after passing the preliminary examination, should have the privilege of being appointed under the new rules; while others who passed their final examination after a residence of two years in England should have extended to them the same rights and privileges as those enjoyed by the European members of the Civil Service. Until some such provision is made, the charge of partiality to the European candidates, which is so often brought against Government, will never cease to exist.

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18. The same paper asks how it was that Mr. Bourdillon, the Officiating Inspector-General of Registration, was allowed, against the orders of Government defining the powers of his office, to inflict fines upon certain sub-registrars who were gazetted officers of rank and responsibility. The wonder is that the injured officers also never breathed any complaint against this action, which was, nevertheless, perfectly unjust. The manner of appointment to the office of Inspector-General of Registration, which obtains at present, is open to considerable objections. It is offered to Civilians, who again remain in it only so long as they continue to receive the regular increments of pay attached thereto. When the maximum salary, however, has been attained, the incumbents seek other employments on higher pay. Thus it has been with the successive officers who have filled this post since the time of Mr. Beverley, the ablest of the number. This is not, however, desirable. The few years passed in this office may be regarded as the term of apprenticeship to the incumbents, inasmuch as the period is taken up in learning the duties required of the Inspector-General. Does Government then intend to perpetuate this state of things, and have the duties of this most important office discharged by a succession of apprentices? The Editor suggests that a really competent member of the Uncovenanted Service should be appointed to the office of Inspector-General. This would cost less to Government than at present, while not having the temptation to seek any higher appointment, the incumbent would bring his whole mind to the duties of his office.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

19. The same paper observes that there could not be a more convincing proof of the loyalty and devotion of the people of this country to the British Government than what was afforded on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Lord Northbrook. The personage whose statue they had met to honor had shocked native susceptibilities by deposing Mulharao Guicowar, by passing the Presidency Magistrates Act, and the Dramatic Performances Act; and yet, instead of cursing him, they had voluntarily voted him a statue, and subscribed for the purpose. They met to honor his virtues and had forgotten all about his fault. Regarding the speeches delivered on the occasion, the address of Sir Steuart Bayley seemed to have lacked the outspokenness of Mr. Bell, the other speaker, perhaps from a desire in the mind of His Honor to please Lord Lytton. Lord Northbrook's policy was the very reverse of that of his successor, and the former could not be commended without conveying an implicit condemnation of the latter; hence the reserve of Sir Steuart Bayley on this occasion. His Honor of course adopted a discreet course in doing this; but on one or two matters he did not do well to advocate the policy of the present administration. The Editor institutes a lengthy comparison between the



chief measures of Lord Northbrook's administration with those which have been accomplished under that of Lord Lytton. These are the Afghan war, the cotton duties, taxation, and other financial measures. The independent bearing of Lord Northbrook's Government is also referred to.

20. Referring to the correspondence between Government and the Press Commissioner and the *Statesman* newspaper on the subject of the Press Commissioner's telegrams, the same paper remarks that, while, on the one hand, it was not prudent on the part of the offending Editor to have made a promise which he would not be able to fulfil, Government should not have, on the other, awarded a punishment which is severer than what the offence deserved. May not any one utter a single word of complaint against the Press Commissioner, whose office, it would seem, should be so much respected because it was a creation of Lord Lytton's brain? We, however, think that the punishment inflicted on the *Statesman* was not the result of his ridiculing that functionary alone; an additional reason will be found in the whole tone of this paper's writings regarding the policy of Government. By passing Act IX, Government has taken away the liberty of the Native Press, and by this measure it appears to be seeking to follow the same course as regards the outspoken English papers.

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21. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th September, writes a long article on the system of trial by jury in reply to one which appeared on the same subject in the *Bengali*.

SAHACHAR,  
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The *Sahachar* complains that those who are generally selected as jurors are mostly ignorant and uneducated men, from whom it is idle to expect justice. It seems to be a point with many jurors to return a verdict of not guilty in spite of the clearest evidence; and it should be no wonder if in such cases the Judge disagreed with them and asked them to reconsider their verdict. The misplaced sympathy which is shown for a criminal, and the evident feeling of exultation with which a verdict of not guilty is received, not only by those interested in him, but by others also, are greatly to be deplored. It seems to be the erroneous impression of many in this country that the Judges are subservient to Government, whose object it is to fill the jails with convicts, and that the public prosecutor is an enemy of the public. The statement of the *Bengali* that juries have not sufficient liberty under the Act is a mistake. It is remarkable how the native jury usually seek to let off the offenders. The Judge, however, must do his duty.

22. Adverting to the exemption of the lowest incomes from liability to the License Tax, the *Shárad Kaumudi*, of the 29th September, thanks Government for this act of generosity to the poor. It only remains for those who are entrusted with the work of assessment to do it conscientiously and properly.

SHARAD KAUMUDI,  
September 29th, 1879.

#### LOCAL.

23. A correspondent of the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 23rd September, thus writes about the operation of the License Tax in Brahmanberiah. Excessive taxation is always a cause of hardship to those who are subject to it. The License Tax has made the inhabitants of this place extremely uneasy. Appeals are expensive. Few indeed of those who had appealed have been exempted. Very little again of the proceeds of the Road and the Public Works Cesses is being expended in a legitimate manner. The little that is done is done by the Branch Road Cess Committees; while the action of the District Committee in this matter is represented by the few miles of road between Commillah and Sarail. Nearly two thousand rupees have been expended on this road, and yet during the rains it becomes nearly impassable. Are the authorities making any enquiries about this?

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 23rd, 1879.



BEARAT MIHIE,  
September 23rd, 1879.

24. The local correspondent of the same paper refers to the oppressions which have been caused by the License Tax to the inhabitants of Mymensing. It would seem as though the curses of the sufferers had brought about this second Cabul war. The exemption of the lowest rateable incomes, for which Lord Lytton deserves our thanks, will however save the poorest classes.

The writer then refers to the project of a railway from Dacca to Mymensing. He thus remarks:—Why should there be a railway in these parts? There is here no fear of any insurrection, or war, or any necessity of sending troops. That Government will make a railway here solely from a desire for the welfare of the people is nothing better than the ravings of a maniac, which, for my part, I do not believe. For what measure is now adopted by Government from this motive only? Of course, it would have no objection if, in seeking to attain its own objects, any incidental advantage accrued to the people. In the present depressed condition of the finances especially, Government cannot, like a school-boy, afford to make a vow of disinterested benevolence. The breaking out anew of the Afghan war has considerably reduced the chances of a railway communication between Dacca and Mymensing.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
September 23rd, 1879.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 23rd September, regrets that Government, in revising the jurisdictions in the Burdwan district, has not consulted the convenience or the interests of the inhabitants. The writer takes particular exception to the transfer of the Indas thana to the Bishenpore Chowkee. This thana comprises under its jurisdiction a number of villages, some near Burdwan and others near Bishenpore, so that, whether the thana were placed under Burdwan or Bishenpore, the arrangement would be more convenient to some villages, while it would be less so to others. What then was the necessity of transferring Indas to Bishenpore? Nor were any complaints ever made when Indas was under Burdwan.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 4th October 1879.*